

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 007

INFO USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 1920

EO11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GE, US

SUBJ: US-GDR RELATIONS: FIRST STEPS

DEPT: PLEASE PASS AMBASSADOR COOPER

1. MY RECEPTION SINCE ARRIVING HERE HAS BEEN CORRECT AND MORE THAN OCRDIAL. GDR OFFICIALS, HAVING OBTAINED US RECOGNITION, NOW ATTACH IMPORTANCE TO AN OFFICIAL US PRESENCE IN THEIR COUNTRY, AND WISH TO SEE RELATIONS NORMALIZED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BY THE OPENINGOF EMBASSIES AND EXCHANGE OF AMBASSADORS. MY CONVERSATIONS WITH THEM HAVE BEEN RELAXED AND OCCASIONALLY ALMOST BANTERING IN TONE.

2. I WAS MET AT SCHOENEFELD AIRPORT ON THE EVENING OF OCTOBER 20 BY FOREIGN MINISTRY DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF PROTOCOL KIENER AND HIS ASSISTANT FOR WESTERN AFFAIRS, BAER. AN OFFICIAL CAR AND DRIVER WERE PLACED AT MY DISPOSAL UNTIL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE USE OF US VEHICLES CAN BE MADE. THIS
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CAR, IRONICALLY, IS A MERCEDES 200. ON ARRIVAL I GAVE KIENER

THREE PHOTOGRAPHS FOR A GDR DIPLOMATIC IDENTITY CARD, WHICH WAS THEN PRESENTED TO ME IN A CALL AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY THE FOLLOWING MORNING WITH PRIDE IN THE EFFICIENCY INVOLVED.

3. DISCUSSION OF PROTOCOL MATTERS COVERED THE MODALITIES FOR OPENING AN EMBASSY, DESCRIPTION OF A SYSTEM FOR ISSUING SOCIAL INVITATIONS TO MINISTER-LEVEL AND PARTY OFFICIALS THROUGH THE MINISTRY'S PROTOCOL OFFICE, AND A STATEMENT REPEATED LATER BY GEOGRAPHIC OFFICERS THAT IT WILL BE DESIRABLE FOR AMBASSADOR COOPER TO ARRIVE HERE NOT LATER THAN DECEMBER 5 IF HE WISHES TO BE ACCREDITED BEFORE JANUARY. THE PROCESS OF ACCREDITATION TAKES "TWO WEEKS."

4. PROTOCOL CALL WAS FOLLOWED IMMEDIATELY BY VISIT (AT GDR REQUEST) WITH CHIEF OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S NORTH AMERICA DIVISION GEYER AND HIS U.S. "DESK OFFICER" SIEMENS. AGAIN, THE ATMOSPHERE WAS CALCULATED TO BE FRIENDLY. GEYER'S CONCERN THAT WE ADDRESS THE NEGOTIATION OF A CONSULAR AGREEMENT PROMPTLY AFTER OPENING EMBASSIES IS REPORTED SEPTEL.

5. ON OCTOBER 22, EMBOFF BLOCH AND I CALLED ON HEAD OF GDR DIPLOMATIC SERVICES OFFICE LOEFFLER TO DISCUSS OFFICE SPACE, RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES AND LOCAL STAFF. THE CONVERSATION WAS BUSINESSLIKE LOEFFLER AND HIS DEPUTY TOEPFER MADE A POINT OF STRESSING A PERSONAL AS WELL AS OFFICIAL WELCOME.

6. IN EACH OF THE THREE ABOVE CONVERSATIONS, I WOVE IN THE REMARK THAT OUR PLANS FOR OPENING THE EMBASSY ON NOVEMBER 1 REMAIN FLEXIBLE. IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT GDR OFFICIALS EXPECTED TO HEAR THIS AND WERE TAKING A DELAY OF WHAT MIGHT AMOUNT TO SEVERAL WEEKS IN OPENING BOTH HERE AND IN WASHINGTON INTO ACCOUNT.

7. COMMENT. IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT GDR AUTHORITIES ARE GENUINELY PLEASED TO SEE THE BEGINNINGS OF AN OFFICIAL US PRESENCE IN THEIR COUNTRY AFTER A STRUGGLE OF MANY YEARS TO OBTAIN INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION. WE HAVE NOT YET DISCUSSED SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES; OUR CONVERSATIONS HAVE THUS FAR DEALT ONLY WITH MATTERS OF PROTOCOL AND ADMINIS-
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TRATION. NEVERTHELESS, THE RECORD SHOULD SHOW THAT THEIR APPROACH AT THE OUTSET IS PRAGMATIC AND EVEN SOMEWHAT FLEXIBLE IN THE APPLICATION OF PROCEDURES, SIGNALLING AT THIS POINT -- BEFORE OUR EMBASSY HAS OPENED AND OUR AMBASSADOR HAS ARRIVED -- THAT THEY WISH TO START OFF ON THE RIGHT FOOT.GROVE

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